Dear Members

As we come to the end of another great season at the Old Jail Museum, I am reflecting upon so many changes that have occurred - some good, some bad. We have never suffered from vandalism at the Old Jail Museum until this year. Twice we have been ‘tagged’; it is with sadness that we say the times have changed.

But on the good side, many new visitors this year have graced our doors. We have had the most wonderful time talking to many people from Europe who love coming to our little home in the Sierras.

We have been host to the Nevada County Landmarks Commission in an attempt to get the Masonic Arch onto the local registry, E Clampus Vitus dedicated a new plaque to Jacob Teeter, and we are in the process of an Eagle Scout Project to get new benches in the upper sitting area in the garden.

We are still working with the Railroad Society on the creation of a mutual museum. This also includes discussions with the Friends of the Library and the Kidz Zone on a mutually beneficial and convenient campus.

We will have our Annual Meeting and dinner on September 19, at the Cottonwood Restaurant starting at 5:30 p.m. for conversation and a no-host bar. Dinner to follow. If you are interested in joining us please call or email cmortier@truckeehistory.org. The cost will be no more than $28.00 per person.

May I take this opportunity to say how much I have enjoyed being your President again this year. We have come a long way and I hope we continue this upward movement.

Again, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your continued support of this wonderful and most important organization.

Respectfully, Chaun Mortier, President

September 19, 2017

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Events will be posted online at our website

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Notice to Members

In 2015, the TDHS Board of Directors approved a change in membership renewal to reflect the Society's bi-annual renewal schedule - January or July. For specific details, please visit our website.

We hope you have been continuing to enjoy this quarterly newsletter. We realize that sometimes printed copies are much easier to grab, but we will continue to distribute our Newsletter electronically. As always, the newsletter will be readily available online and accessible on a quarterly basis. If you are a TDHS member, an email will be sent to you advising you of posting.

Editor's Note: This Newsletter is interactive - it is designed to be read online and contains links to relevant source material and in many cases, links to larger images for easier viewing.

Updates from earlier ECHOES articles

From the Editor

Since preparing the article about Patents in the Truckee area in our June 2017 Echoes, p. 10, issue, I finally finished a book published in 2013 called The Inventor and the Tycoon by Edward Ball. I used it as a reference about why nitroglycerine was no longer used in the construction of the transcontinental railroad – see Ball, p. 64. While I originally tracked the book down because of several references to the building of the railroad through the Truckee and Donner Summit areas, I originally thought the book would not be particularly interesting.

However, as one travels along the railroad tracks in California, there are California Historical Landmarks marking episodes mentioned in Ball’s book. One landmark in particular comes to mind. In the middle of nowhere on Interstate 5 is a small oasis called Harris Ranch, just outside of Hanford, California. I saw a sign for a memorial plaque for the Mussel Slough Tragedy. I recalled reading about the dispute over land title ownership in Ball’s book, pp. 329-31. Just a few miles outside of Harris Ranch is the memorial plaque to those who lost their lives during this land

Updates article continued on page 2

Please get involved with your Truckee Donner Historical Society (TDHS). The only way we can offer programs and events is if YOU, as a volunteer, step up and get involved. TDHS is an all-volunteer, 501(c)(3) organization so any and all donations are gratefully appreciated and tax deductible.

Our mailing address is Truckee Donner Historical Society, P.O. Box 893, Truckee, CA 96160.
dispute. What are the odds I never would have realized the connection had I not finished reading the entire book. SO the “six degrees of separation” theory applies to more than just people.

The relationship between the eccentric “inventor”, Edward Muybridge, and the railroad “tycoon”, Leland Stanford, took twists and turns over the years they interacted with each other.

So again, imagine this surprised Editor when she sees a collection of Muybridge’s studies at the University of Pennsylvania, my husband’s alma mater. Reading the Ball book helped me to better understand the politics and economics of the period and Stanford’s background in the development of the transcontinental railroad - especially in California. The moral of the story again: keep your eyes and ears open as you never quite know what connections “connect”.

Strike of 1894 - Effect on Truckee

Additionally, in the December 2016 ECHOES issue, pp. 4-5, 7, reference was made to soldiers assigned to the Truckee area railroad, trestles, and bridges to guard against vandalism and sabotage as a result of the national Pullman Strike of 1894. In researching that article, we came across several references to the role of the California National Guard during this strike. Reviewing recently released Ancestry.com historical records, we realized that one of the records was of the “Camp at Truckee, Cal.” in July 1894. We tried to match up some of the names in this Commissioned Officers Report record with those mentioned in the Company B article, and to our astonishment, one name did match: Army Colonel Gu(e)nther, p. 174.

Once again, technology intertwines with recently digitized records to bring history to life. (See History Company B First Regiment Infantry, pp. 174, 183, 184, and 206; and http://www.militarymuseum.org/1894%20Railroad%20Strike.pdf)

You never know what question might be posed to volunteers at Truckee-Donner Historical Society! On Saturday, August 5th, we honored a request from Skywalker Sounds, of Lucasfilm Ltd., © & ™, to record the sound of our Old Jail Museum jail cell door opening. Can’t wait to see what this will be used for!

The Nevada County Landmarks Commission recently released a video about some of the historical landmarks in Nevada County. Among other landmarks, this:

short video showcases our own Memorial Arch behind the Old Jail Museum.
Flags of Distinction
By Heidi Sproat and Ron Rettig

Hanging in our own Old Jail Museum is a “G.A.R.” (Grand Army of the Republic) silk flag with 38 stars, in a spinning ‘bee-hive’ pattern, a rare flag composition. If you look closely you'll see that the stars are tilted and appear to be "spinning." Note that “Gen'l Berry Post. No. 85, G.A.R. Truckee, CAL” appears in gold colored letters thereon. See photo at right and 1stdibs website. (Current price: $3,479.60 CAD !)

One of our TDHS members traced some information about “General Berry” that we thought you would find interesting. Hiram Gregory Berry (August 27, 1824 – May 2, 1863), after whom the GAR post was named, was a politician and general in the Army of the Potomac during the American Civil War. He was killed in action by a sharpshooter at the Battle of Chancellorsville, VA in May 1863.

Truckee GAR Post General Berry member A. C. Campbell (see arrow at right) also served on the Union warship USS General Price. The ship Price was originally the Laurent Millaudon, commandeered into the Confederate Navy as CSS General Sterling Price, but was sunk at the Battle of Memphis. The ship was then raised by the Union, refloated and commissioned as the Union ship USS General Price, upon which Mr. A. C. Campbell, later of Truckee GAR Post General Berry served.

In the National GAR Records Program, Historical Summary of Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Posts by State, California, and prepared by the National Organization Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW), entry number 85, confirms that post GEN Berry, of Truckee, Placer County, CA/NV, was named after Major General Hiram Gregory Berry, the Civil War leader.

Another of our TDHS researchers discovered an article in the May 14, 1887 Truckee Republican about this very GAR flag. See newspaper clipping, p. 5.

Flags article continues on page 5
And to put cost in perspective, the above article is from the May 14, 1887 *Truckee Republican* newspaper regarding the GAR Flag. In 1887, the flag cost $60. In 2017 dollars, the cost would be substantially more, the relative price worth escalating to $1,540. But the cost depends on what comparative benchmark one uses. See this measuring worth cost comparison.

It’s amazing what some research will reveal.

And another flag story. In one of the recent collections donated to the TDHS, we noticed this picture of what we believed to be Meadow Lake Union High School students presenting a service flag to the school in honor of Truckee citizens serving in World War II. When we looked for information about this possibility, an article showed up in the *Nevada State Journal* on March 25, 1945, p. 5. And several weeks ago we found the flag in the Joseph Research Library cabin. See also Rare Flags.
Research and Artifact Update!
By Chaun Mortier and Heidi Sproat

This is a new adventure to let the membership know some of what has been happening at the Research Library.

The Schmidt family donated a beautiful set of China (next column, bottom). It was in their house when they bought it in the 1960s. They have also donated a Bible from 1876, numerous household items including two old irons, a salt and pepper shaker set, a sled and saws from the Old Mill at the Railyard. (We checked Replacements.com to see if we could find the pattern and no luck.)

The Titus Family has also donated several items. The Military memorabilia will be on permanent loan to the American Legion Chapter 439 at the Veterans Hall to be on display in the foyer. We are currently indexing and logging numerous pictures and historical items. In this collection are several paintings from Frank Titus, Sr., which were done in the early 1900s. See next page for images.

Although these have been the largest collections provided this year, there have been many more smaller donations. We appreciate all of them!

On the research side, we were asked to help identify the origin of this beautiful token (next column). We were able to let the owner know that John Muir and his wife ran the Palace Dance Hall. Due to issues, they separated and she ran the Red Light Dance Hall. She met an unfortunate fate from a jealous boyfriend but her husband continued to run the Palace Dance Hall. We are still trying to determine where these palaces were located. This was in 1905 in Truckee.

We were also able to provide information to a question posed about the Old Stone Garage located at the corner of Jibboom and Bridge Streets. The requester inquired as to the prior business name in the 1970s. Using donated images from the John Corbett Collection, and scanned by our own Ron Rettig, we were able to track down several photos showing the name of the 1970s establishment, “Alpenglow Sports / The Hide Side.” Images next page.

TDHS addressed numerous questions posed by visitors to the Joseph Research Library, including descendants of lumberman Elle Ellen. We also had inquiries about the depth of Donner Lake, late 1800 period maps, Wally Gellatt, Pollard’s Station, Pioneer Monument, Donner Camp Sites, Dutch Flat and Donner Lake Wagon Road, Summit Tunnel, Schallenger Ridge, Old U.S. Route 40, the “Lincoln Highway”, the “Gateway Motel”, Jibboom Street buildings, the first cable tow in the U.S., water pipes in the early 1900s underneath Truckee Veteran Memorial Building, the Truckee Train Depot before its renovation, when “Donner Lake” was “Truckee Lake” (1844) and countless other inquiries, many involving “what isn’t there anymore” or “what WAS that building”.

In reviewing the thousands of images that comprise the John Corbett collection, and which were so painstakingly scanned, we thought you’d be interested in viewing a few additional photos from times gone by. Since they are larger images, we are providing only compressed versions of the images here. See page 7. If you see something you recognize and can add a date, identify people, or offer other period information, please contact us as info@truckeehistory.org.

* A map, dated 1874 “Lake Tahoe and Surrounding Country” Ferdinand Von Leicht, & J.D. Hoffmann, Civil Engineers, 432 Montgomery St. S.F. shows “Truckee Lake” as “Donner Lake.” In 1860, the State Legislature passed an act establishing California’s first official Geological Survey of California and the act named Josiah D. Whitney to fill the new office. Whitney conducted various surveys until 1874 when funding was not renewed.
Research article continued from p. 6

A few samples of John Corbett Collection photos

(Left) Count 'em - 9 fixed wing aircraft in very close flyover formation

(Below) Circa 1970s, Alpenglow Sports - The Hide Side; Courtesy of John Corbett Collection; unknown date

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Old Jail Museum Cell Walls
By Karl Pape

People visiting the Old Truckee Jail Museum often comment on the amount of steel used to encase the lower floor of the building. Therein lies a story of a gun fight in the jail in 1897 and the response by Nevada County Board of Supervisors to reduce the chances of having a similar event in the future.

The gun fight occurred on March 30, 1897. The then constable, Gus Schlumpf, and a waiter known as Fred King were bringing food to the prisoners. As they entered the jail, a prisoner drew a gun on Constable Schlumpf. He reported that he called for help, grabbed for the prisoner’s revolver and drew his own weapon. It appears that the Constable and prisoner fired almost simultaneously.

The Constable lost his thumb in the exchange. The bullet from his gun went “clean though” the prisoner, but struck Fred King killing him instantly. Constable Schlumpf felt responsible for the death of “Fred King” and provided a funeral and a place in his family plot in the Truckee Cemetery.

As a side note, it is interesting that Fred King was not the real name of the waiter. His last name was Schipper. Perhaps, like many, he came from the midwest to start a new life.

This incident convinced the Nevada County Board of Supervisors that the jail needed additional security enhancements. Up to this point, the jail consisted of four rock filled walls and a dirt floor. The clientele were usually the result of too much time spent in either Truckee’s 27 saloons or the red light district, but times were changing and the risk of more violent confrontations seemed to be growing.

In October of 1904, the Nevada County Board of Supervisors, in a move to make the jail more secure, contracted with the Parcells Safe Company of San Francisco and Oakland for One Thousand Four Hundred and Ninety Seven dollars to reinforce the jail. The reinforcement was to be accomplished with five sixteenths (5/16) steel plate and included the building of three cells. The cells were to be eight feet long, eight feet high and six feet wide. There were to be twenty three quarter inch holes drilled in the side and back of the cells for ventilation.

The cells were to have lattice doors with locks similar to those on the Nevada County Jail in Nevada City. During the building of the cells however, it was determined that the thickness of the steel plate would only allow two cells to be built.

The Parcells Safe Company would eventually become a victim of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake.

Footnotes
1 Letter, A. F. Schlumpf to Mr. Egbert Schipper, August 14, 1909.
2 Ibid. 3 Ibid.
4 Contract between The Nevada County Board of Supervisors and the Parcells Safe Company, October 5, 1904.
5 Ibid. 6 Ibid. 7 Determination by Author
8 Crocker-Langley San Francisco Directory for 1905; San Francisco 1907 City Directory.

Editor’s Notes:
Searching for images about the 1906 San Francisco earthquake revealed this image of what remained of Parcells Safe Company.

Other references about Parcells Safe Company assembled at this "wiki" reference, including information about a temporary Parcells facility in Oakland after the earthquake.

On August 1, 2017, TDHS made a short presentation to the Rotary International, Club of Truckee, requesting grant monies to assist in the digitization of many recently donated photographs and artifacts. That effort was successful and we are pleased to report that TDHS volunteers are diligently combing through the mounds of items to select representative samples of images that best display Truckee's history. TDHS volunteers are taking a two-pronged approach - to digitize indices that have already been prepared, and separately, to scan and start to digitize recently donated photographs and images from times gone by. We are currently in the process of designing an Image Collection that we plan to make both "browsable" and searchable by subject matter or by individual collection. TDHS sincerely thanks the Truckee Rotary for their grant which enables us to start this most important project. To view a few of the upcoming images in the online database project.

1918 Pioneer [Donner] Monument Commemorative Medal

At the July 15, 2017 Old Timers' Picnic, collector Nathan Brunson shared with us a 1918 Pioneer Monument (Donner) Commemorative Medal. He kindly allowed us to take photos of this medal. Pioneer Monument, located in Donner Memorial State Park, will be 100 years old on June 6, 1918. If you haven't seen the monument, stop by and take a look.

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Gems contributed from members

Trips in Packard sedan from about 7:45 on Old U.S. Route 40, Donner Lake, Virginia City, . . . later towards the end, Lake Tahoe, and color footage possibly along Hwy. 89 around the lake and driving in snow.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_2dUOGZG3NM

Our June 2017 article on Patents in the Truckee area

A Dynamite sling?

(Left) From San Francisco Chronicle, Sunday, October 20, 1895, p. 1, "Dynamite Slings and Deadly Arrows"

Caption reads: "Colonel McGlashan Throwing Dynamite Bombs"

Colonel McGlashan purportedly “made several ineffectual attempts to apply for a patent on a dynamite bow or arrow.” He was, however, successful in getting his Catapult for Throwing Projectiles patented in 1899, patent # 629044.

Editor’s Note:

A thousand thank yous to our expert proofreaders Patricia and Ron. This newsletter would NOT be possible without their eagle proofreading eyes.
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Contact me on ways I can volunteer (__) Are you willing to docent at the Old Jail Museum? Yes / No

Areas of Special Interest and/or Comments/Suggestions: